

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



ADULT & SENIOR CARE UPDATE

October 2007

This is the third issue of the Adult and Senior Care Update for 2007. We appreciate your support in sharing these updates with members of your organization and others interested in adult and senior care issues.

NEW ON THE CCLD WEBSITE: DISASTER AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

To assist facilities in preparing for an emergency or disaster situation, the Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) has an updated Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Self-Assessment Guide on its website. The Guide is designed to be a tool for licensees and staff to identify and correct deficiencies in their response to emergencies and disasters. Disaster preparedness is an important component in the overall health and safety of facility clients/residents. As winter approaches, licensees are urged to assess their emergency plans by reviewing the online Guide at <http://cclld.ca.gov/Res/pdf/DisasterGuide.pdf>.

RCFE MEDICATION TRAINING REQUIREMENTS AS SPECIFIED IN HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTION 1569.69 (AB 2609)

Assembly Bill (AB) 2609, which becomes operative January 1, 2008, added Section 1569.69 to the Health and Safety (H&S) Code. It requires direct care staff in RCFEs, excluding licensed medical professionals, to meet specified medication training requirements in order to assist residents with the self-administration of medication.

The CCLD Senior Care Policy Unit has been receiving numerous questions about the requirements of AB 2609. An Information Release that addresses these questions is being developed. In the interim, the following information is intended to address some of the broader issues that have been raised.

CCLD Administrator Certification Section (ACS) and AB 2609

Currently, some training providers are offering courses on “AB 2609 Medication Training,” stating that these courses are approved by CCLD’s Administrator Certification Section (ACS).

The ACS approval of courses is limited only to approval for purposes of Administrator Certification requirements. The ACS may only approve vendors that provide initial and continuing education courses for the purpose of providing classroom hours of training for individuals seeking to obtain initial certification as administrators or to meet ongoing continuing education requirements as set forth in H&S Code section 1569.616.

ACS has no authority to approve any courses or components of the AB 2609 training requirements. ACS may approve courses within the subject area of medication training for initial or continuing education units, however, the approval criteria is not the same. **It is the responsibility of each licensee to ensure that the training in H&S Code section 1569.69 is provided to staff as specified.**

AB 2609 General Reminders

- The medication training material and exam for all RCFEs must be developed by, or in consultation with, a licensed nurse, pharmacist or physician.
- The medication training components include the hands-on shadowing training, training or instruction in the nine topics specified in statute, and passing an examination that tests the employee's comprehension of, and competency in, the subjects specified in H&S Code section 1569.69(a)(4).
- The hands-on shadowing component of the training must be provided at the facility by a licensed nurse, pharmacist or physician or by a trainer who meets the education and experience requirements in H&S Code section 1569.69(e) and must be completed prior to staff assisting residents with the self-administration of medication.
- The training on the nine topics, including passing an examination on these topics, must be completed within the first two weeks of employment if the employee's duties include assistance with the self-administration of medication.
- If an employee goes to work for another licensee in an RCFE and will be assisting residents with the self-administration of medication, then the medication training must be completed again. Certain exceptions may apply.
- Employee medication training requirements must be repeated if an employee of an RCFE has a break of service of more than 180 consecutive calendar days and then returns to work for the same licensee and will be assisting residents with the self-administration of medication.

As of January 1, 2008, these medication training requirements must be met by all staff assisting residents with the self-administration of medication. For more information on AB 2609, please go to <http://www.cclid.ca.gov/res/pdf/06apx20.pdf>.

REQUIRED WORKPLACE POSTINGS

Employers are reminded that the California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) requires information related to wages, hours and working conditions to be posted in the workplace in an area visible to all employees. Additional posting requirements apply to

some workplaces. For information regarding workplace postings and to obtain copies visit DIR's website at <http://www.dir.ca.gov/WP.asp> or call (415) 703-5070.

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CLEARANCES

California Health and Safety Code sections 1522 and 1569.17 require background checks of all applicants, licensees, adult residents (other than the clients), volunteers (under certain conditions), and employees of community care facilities who have contact with clients. If a background check reveals that an individual has been convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation, the individual may not work or be present in any community care facility unless he or she receives a criminal record exemption from the CCLD Caregiver Background Check Bureau. Individuals must obtain a criminal background clearance or criminal record exemption **before** working or volunteering at licensed facilities. For further information on CCLD background check and criminal record exemption processes, please visit our website at http://www.cclد.ca.gov/TheBackgro_1785.htm or contact your local CCLD licensing office.

RESPIRATORY HYGIENE/COUGH ETIQUETTE AND FLU GUIDELINES

With the cold and flu season beginning, licensees are encouraged to remind everyone in their facility to practice respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette at the first sign of a respiratory illness. **In particular, handwashing is considered the single most effective infection-control measure known to reduce the spread of infection in any facility.** With that in mind, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), formerly the California Department of Health Services, recommends that licensees take the following steps to help stop the spread of illness this fall and winter:

- **Post signs.** Consider posting signs requesting clients/residents to inform facility staff if they have symptoms of a respiratory infection.
- **Provide plenty of tissues.** Provide tissues or masks to clients/residents and facility visitors who are coughing or sneezing so that they can cover their nose and mouth.
- **Provide handwashing supplies.** Make handwashing supplies available where sinks are located, and provide dispensers of alcohol-based hand rubs in other locations.
- **Sit three feet away.** Provide space for and encourage coughing persons to sit at least three feet away from others, if tolerated.
- **Keep wastebaskets handy.** Provide wastebaskets or sealable plastic bags for tissues or materials soiled with nasal or respiratory secretions.

For more information on respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette, please go to <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/resphgiene.htm>.

FLU GUIDELINES/VACCINATIONS - As other reminders, *all staff and clients/residents should be vaccinated against the flu each autumn; contact your physician or local health department.* In addition, CDPH recommendations for the prevention and control of outbreaks of influenza and viral gastroenteritis ("stomach flu") in California long-term

care facilities are available on the CCLD web site at: http://www.cclد.ca.gov/Influenzaa_2041.htm. Shortened versions of these recommendations, adapted for licensed residential community care facilities with CDPH input, are also available at this web site.

SUPPLEMENTAL REIMBURSEMENTS CAN PROVIDE FOR MORE NUTRITIOUS MEALS IN ADULT DAY PROGRAMS

The California Department of Education's Nutrition Services Division administers the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) throughout California. To enhance the health and well-being of the participants, CACFP provides a supplemental reimbursement to adult day care programs so they can provide nutritious meals to their clients. The program is available to all licensed non-residential day care centers that care for adults age 60 or older and for functionally-impaired persons age 18 or older.

In addition to being licensed or approved, participating centers must also demonstrate compliance with the following key standards:

- Service to functionally-impaired adults.
- A structured, comprehensive program of health, social, and related support services.
- Development and maintenance of an individual plan of care for every functionally-impaired participant.

For additional information, or to request an application, call (800) 952-5609 and ask to be connected to an Adult Day Care Center Specialist.

RECALL NOTICE ON SOME CANNED GOODS

In July 2007, Castleberry's Food Company of Augusta, Georgia, recalled 23 canned food products suspected of containing *Clostridium botulinum*, a bacterium that can cause botulism. The recalled products are marketed under 26 different Castleberry's brand names and all "best buy" and code dates are included.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), food borne botulism is a rare but serious paralytic illness that occurs when foods containing the botulinum toxin are consumed. Symptoms of botulism include general weakness, dizziness, double-vision, and trouble with speaking or swallowing. Difficulty in breathing, weakness of other muscles, abdominal distension and constipation may also be common symptoms. Facility licensees and/or staff are urged to check all canned goods on their shelves to ensure they do not have any of these products.

A complete list of the recalled products, as well as disposal and refund instructions, can be found at Castleberry's website at www.castleberrys.com, or contact Castleberry's consumer hotline at (800) 203-4412. For more information about botulism, visit the CDC's website at http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/botulism_g.htm, or call (800) 311-3435.

CCLD STAFF CHANGES

Haris Dergar was promoted to Licensing Program Manager (LPM) I in the San Diego Unit of the Southern California Senior Care Regional Office effective August 1, 2007. Haris has been with CCLD since 1990 and has served in various capacities during his tenure. Harris speaks five languages: English, Spanish, Armenian, Greek, and Turkish.

Lisa Jeffers was promoted to LPM I in the Orange Local Unit of the Southern California Senior Care Regional Office effective August 31, 2007. Lisa began working as a Licensed Program Analyst (LPA) upon joining CCLD in 2002. Lisa's LPA experience and her previous experience as a manager in the private sector prepare her well for her new position.

Carol Levenson was promoted to LPM I in the Greater Los Angeles Senior Care Regional Office effective July 12, 2007. Carol has a Master's Degree in Social Work. She began working as an LPA upon joining CCLD in 1996. She has also worked as a Special Investigator, as the Interdisciplinary Team's social worker, as an application specialist, and on various special projects, including training newly-hired LPAs.

Kit Chan was promoted to Regional Manager of the Greater Los Angeles Senior Care Licensing Office effective May 31, 2007. Kit began her employment with CCLD in 1997 as an LPA. Just prior to promoting to Regional Manager, Kit was an LPM in the Greater Los Angeles Senior Care Licensing Office.

Jeralyn "Jeri" Pfannenstiel was promoted to LPM I in the Greater Los Angeles Senior Care Regional Office effective July 16, 2007. Jeri began working as an LPA in 1997. During her tenure, Jeri served as a lead analyst and assisted in the training and development of new staff.

Rey Pennywell, LPM I, has transferred from the Orange Local Unit to the Riverside Local Unit of the Southern California Senior Care Regional Office. Rey worked in the Orange Local Unit for over one year. He filled the vacancy created when Karon Brady retired earlier this year.

SUMMARY

If you have questions about this Update or suggestions for future topics, please contact Barbara Rooney, Chief of the Technical Assistance and Policy Branch, at (916) 657-2346. Please visit our website at www.cclld.ca.gov to obtain copies of Updates, office locations, provider letters, regulations, or to learn more about licensing services.

Sincerely,

Signed by Jo Frederick on 10/08/07
JO FREDERICK
Deputy Director
Community Care Licensing Division

Enclosures